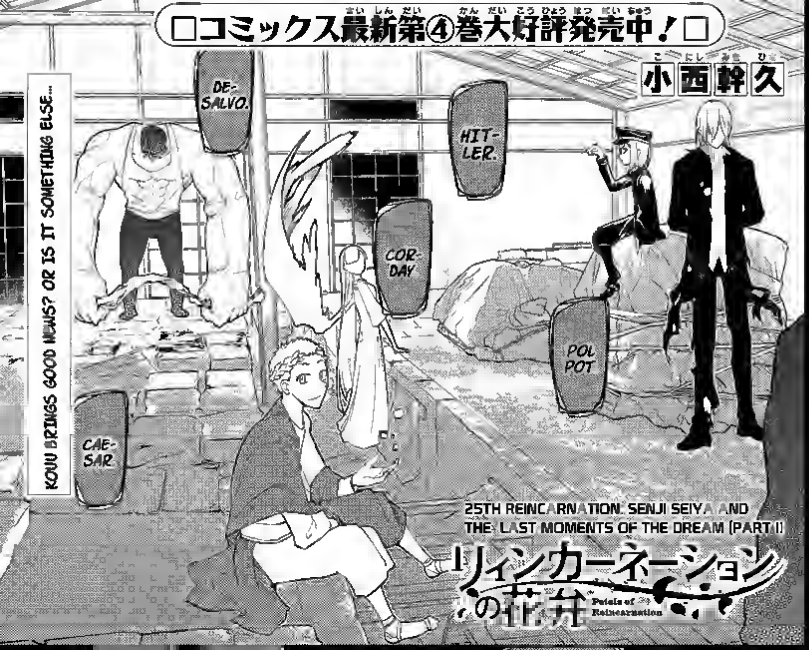
□コミックス最新第④巻大好評発売中！□

小西幹久



25TH REINCARNATION: SENJI SEIYA AND THE LAST MOMENTS OF THE DREAM (PART I)

リィンカーネーションの花弁

Petals of Reincarnation

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN.
THE "FOREST OF THE GREATS" HAS BEEN ESTA-BLISHED
WITH THE "UNIVERSAL" GREAT, DA VINCI, AS THEIR LEADER...
YOU GUYS SHOULD ALSO...

SHE'S LONELY.
CAN'T YOU COME AND VISIT HER MORE OFTEN?
CORDAY, WHAT IS IT?
IT HURTS ME THE MOST WHEN I, CAESAR, SEE THAT SAD EXPRESSION UPON A GIRL'S FACE——.
CLICK
WELL THEN? YOU DIDN'T BRING BACK ANY LOCAL PRODUCTS FOR US FROM WHEREVER IT IS THAT YOU WENT?
YOU MIGHT AS WELL PLAY DARTS OR CHESS WITH ME IF YOU'VE GOT THE SPARE TIME.
POL POT CAN PREPARE THEM IN AN INSTANT.

DID YOU GUYS HEAR WHAT I SAID JUST NOW?
YEAH I HEARD. DO YOU NEED ME TO SAY "CONGRATULATIONS" TO YOU?
WHAT IS IT? YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU...
IT REALLY DOES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
"FOREST OF THE GREATS".. HUH.
I IMAGINE THAT IT'S AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING WITH A VERY NOBLE CAUSE
THEIR TARGET IS "WORLD PEACE"!!
FUFU... I SEE.
—SO?
ARE THEY GOING TO PUT AN END TO THOSE OF US WHO AREN'T REINCARNATIONS OF "GREATS"?

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YOU'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF RETURNERS.
IT'S ALL VERY CLEAR TO ME ONCE I'VE USED MY "MASTER-MIND".
DID YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH US JUST SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE US ALL DOWN AT ONCE? IS THIS WHY YOU CHOSE TO MEET AT SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARILY RURAL LOCATION?
SINCE OUR INDIVIDUALITIES ARE DERIVED FROM SINNERS AFTER ALL.
WE ARE A DANGER TO WORLD PEACE...
OR ELSE YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO BE THE FIRST ONE HE...
CORDAY, YOU BETTER STAY AWAY FROM HIM.
KOUJI'S ONLY DOING THIS SO THAT WE WON'T CAUSE A DISTURBANCE TO NORMAL...
STOP IT WITH THE CONJECTURES!!

IF...
YOU KEEP SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT KOUU...
才能
TALENT
暗殺天使
ANGEL OF ASSASSINATION
THEN YOU'RE GOING TO DIE

CALM DOWN, THE BOTH OF YOU.
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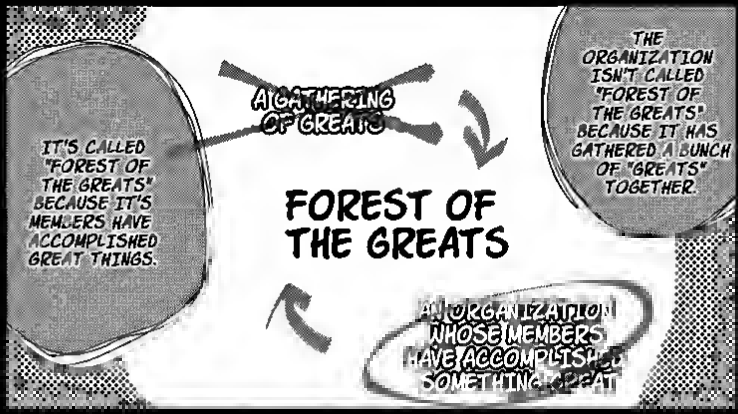
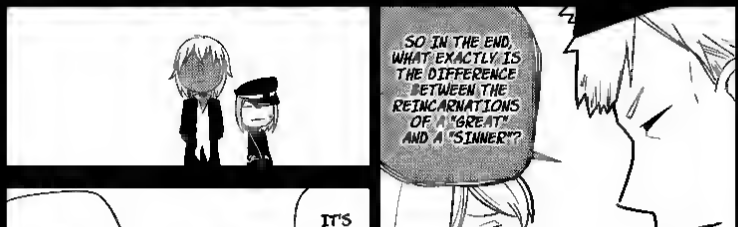
...I SHOULD BE THE ONE TELLING YOU THAT. HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO ME AT ALL?
FINISH LISTENING TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY FIRST.
WHAT I WANT YOU GUYS TO DO IS JOIN THE FOREST OF THE GREATS TOO.
AH...
IF WE'RE FOLLOWING YOUR LAME ASS THEORY, DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT I'M NOT ABLE TO JOIN AS WELL?
I SAID IT ALREADY, WE ARE NOT REINCARNATIONS OF "GREATS"...


A GATHERING OF GREATS
FOREST OF THE GREATS
AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING GREAT
IT'S CALLED "FOREST OF THE GREATS" BECAUSE IT'S MEMBERS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED GREAT THINGS.
THE ORGANIZATION ISN'T CALLED "FOREST OF THE GREATS" BECAUSE IT HAS GATHERED A BUNCH OF "GREATS" TOGETHER.

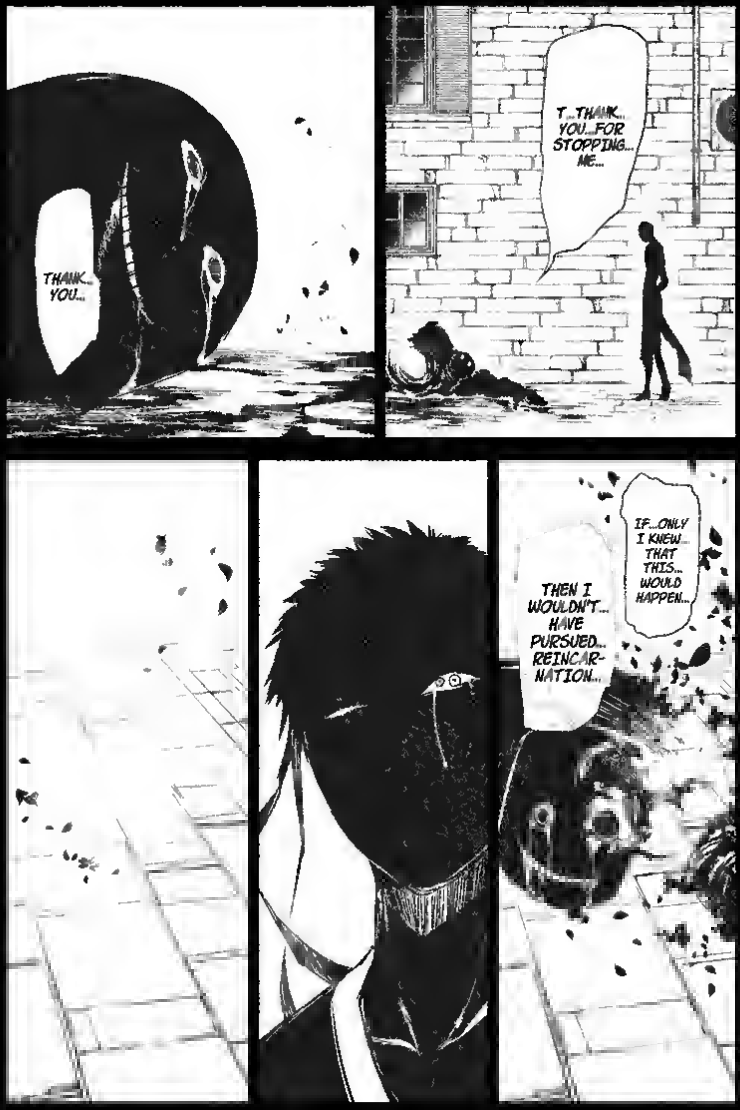
WE ARE ALL JUST A BUNCH OF WEAKLINGS WHO WERE WILLING TO SLIT OUR OWN THROATS IN ORDER TO GAIN TALENT.
THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALL OF US.
WE ARE ALL EQUAL IN STATUS AS RETURNERS!!
TO US, THE ONLY PROBLEM IS HOW WE CHOOSE TO USE THE "TALENTS" THAT WE POSSESS, RIGHT?


NOT EVERYBODY CAN TREAT THESE PROBLEMS THE SAME WAY YOU DO.
IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS YOU THINK.
SO IN THE END, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REINCARNATIONS OF A "GREAT" AND A "SINNER"?
HM—?

CORDAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I'M FINE WITH ANYTHING AS LONG AS I'M WITH KOUU.
CAESAR, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HM—? I DON'T REALLY CARE.
AS LONG AS I CAN CONTINUE RESEARCHING THIS MYSTERY WITH THE "PETALS"——
……
CAESAR REPRESENT!!
THERE WILL BE MORE GIRLS—
AHH, I REALLY CAN'T STAND THIS IDIOT…
BUT WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE "IMPULSE"?
BEING RETURNERS, WE ARE DRIVEN BY THE "IMPULSE" TO USE OUR TALENTS…

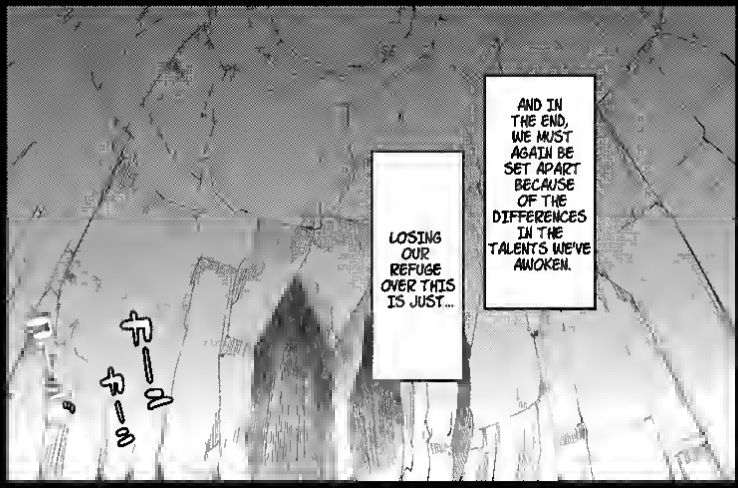
WE'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS WE FIND OTHER WAYS TO NEGATE OUR IMPULSES
ACTUALLY, FINDING A WAY TO BE ABLE TO TO PUT OUR TALENTS TO GOOD USE MIGHT BE EVEN BETTER
IT'LL BE FINE.
FOR EXAMPLE, DESALVO'S STRANGLING IMPULSE IS BEING RELIEVED BY HIM SQUEEZING THINGS.
SINNERS WILL STILL COMMIT CRIMES SOMEDAY.
IF ANYBODY ENDS UP GETTING DEVOURED BY THEIR TALENTS...
AND DON'T WORRY
THEN I WILL HELP THEM PASS ON.

SAVE US AHH-HH!
AH-HH!


THANK... YOU...
T...THANK... YOU...FOR STOPPING... ME...
IF...ONLY I KNEW... THAT THIS... WOULD HAPPEN...
THEN I WOULDN'T... HAVE PURSUED... REINCAR-NATION...

I NEED TO TELL A FEW MORE OTHER COMPANIONS ABOUT THIS.
YOU'RE LEAVING AGAIN?
THAT'S ALL.
...WELL... IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ASKING YOU TO MAKE YOUR DECISIONS RIGHT NOW. JUST THINK ABOUT IT.
WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO HELP US?
KOUU.
WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT US SINNERS?
...I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE...

WE ALL CHOSE TO COMMIT SUICIDE FOR A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION.


AND IN THE END, WE MUST AGAIN BE SET APART BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TALENTS WE'VE AWOKEN.
LOSING OUR REFUGE OVER THIS IS JUST...
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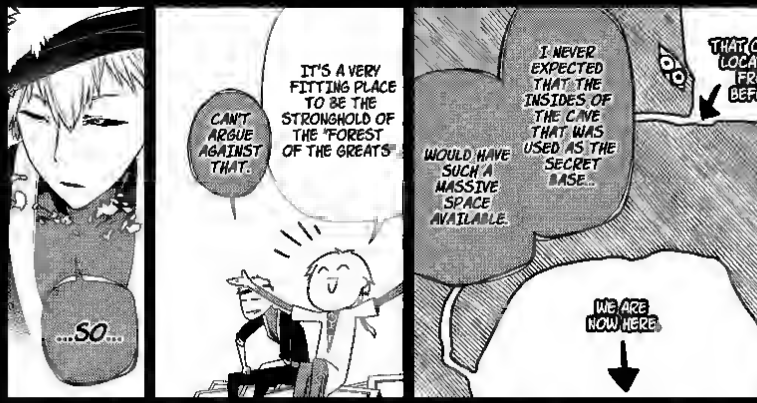
I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE THIS WAY.
UWAA-HHHH!
ALRIGHT. HERE YOU GO, KOUU-SAN.

SEIYA YOU ASS! THAT WAS REALLY DANGEROUS!
KOUU-SAN SHOULD COME AND INSTALL MONITORS ALONG WITH EVERYBODY ELSE.
WE CAN IMPROVE OUR TEAM DYNAMIC LIKE THAT YOU KNOW?
I REFUSE!!
EHEHEHE...
...SERIOUSLY.
YOU REALLY ARE A VERY INDECISIVE PERSON...
ALSO, SEIYA, YOU ACTUALLY HAVE THE TIME TO HELP OUT WITH THIS SORT OF STUFF?
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHERE THE "FOREST OF THE GREATS" IS TO START TAKING ACTION?
WHEW—
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER
I CAN'T AFFORD TO BRING SHAME TO MY BROTHER
ANY-WAYS...


...SO...
CAN'T ARGUE AGAINST THAT.
IT'S A VERY FITTING PLACE TO BE THE STRONGHOLD OF THE "FOREST OF THE GREATS"
WOULD HAVE SUCH A MASSIVE SPACE AVAILABLE.
I NEVER EXPECTED THAT THE INSIDES OF THE CAVE THAT WAS USED AS THE SECRET BASE...
THAT CASUAL LOCATION FROM BEFORE.
WE ARE NOW HERE.

THOSE ARE NEUMANN'S RETURNER FRIENDS.
THOSE PEOPLE THAT ARE HELPING OUT OVER THERE ARE?

THEY ALSO JOINED THE FOREST OF THE GREATS.
AND THAT IS WHY...
IT WILL BE BETTER IF WE CAN GATHER AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE POSSIBLY CAN.
BECAUSE WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO IS ON A WORLD-CLASS SCALE!!

NOT JUST A FEW, BUT A FEW HUNDRED RETURNERS.
I ALSO HAVE PEOPLE THAT I WANT TO RECOMMEND.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. I ALSO THOUGHT OF THE SAME THING.
I'M NOT TRYING TO KILL YOUR MOOD ON PURPOSE, BUT MOST OF THE PEOPLE I'M BRINGING HERE DON'T HAVE THE TALENTS OF GREATS.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO THEN!!
"EING ACTUALLY ABLE TO MEET WITH THE GREATS OF HISTORY RIGHT HERE IN THIS PLACE!!
CAN YOU ACCEPT THAT?
EH...?

OF COURSE I CAN! ALL ARE WELCOME!!
IF THEY ARE KOUU-SAN'S FRIENDS THEN THEY ALL MUST BE GOOD PEOPLE!!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW THAT IF IT WAS YOU, YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO SAY THAT!!
OWW!
?
IT WILL DEFINITELY BE A SUCCESS.
LET'S MAKE IT A SUCCESS!!

WE NEED HELP OVER HERE TOO!!
STOP LAZING AROUND COME AND HELP.
HEY! DA VINCI!!
OKAY, I'M COMING—
JUST LIKE WHAT NEUMANN SAID BEFORE...
THIS SO-CALLED "WORLD PEACE" WOULD STILL NOT BE ATTAINABLE EVEN IF RETURNERS MANAGED TO GATHER UP TOGETHER
BUT THAT'S OKAY.

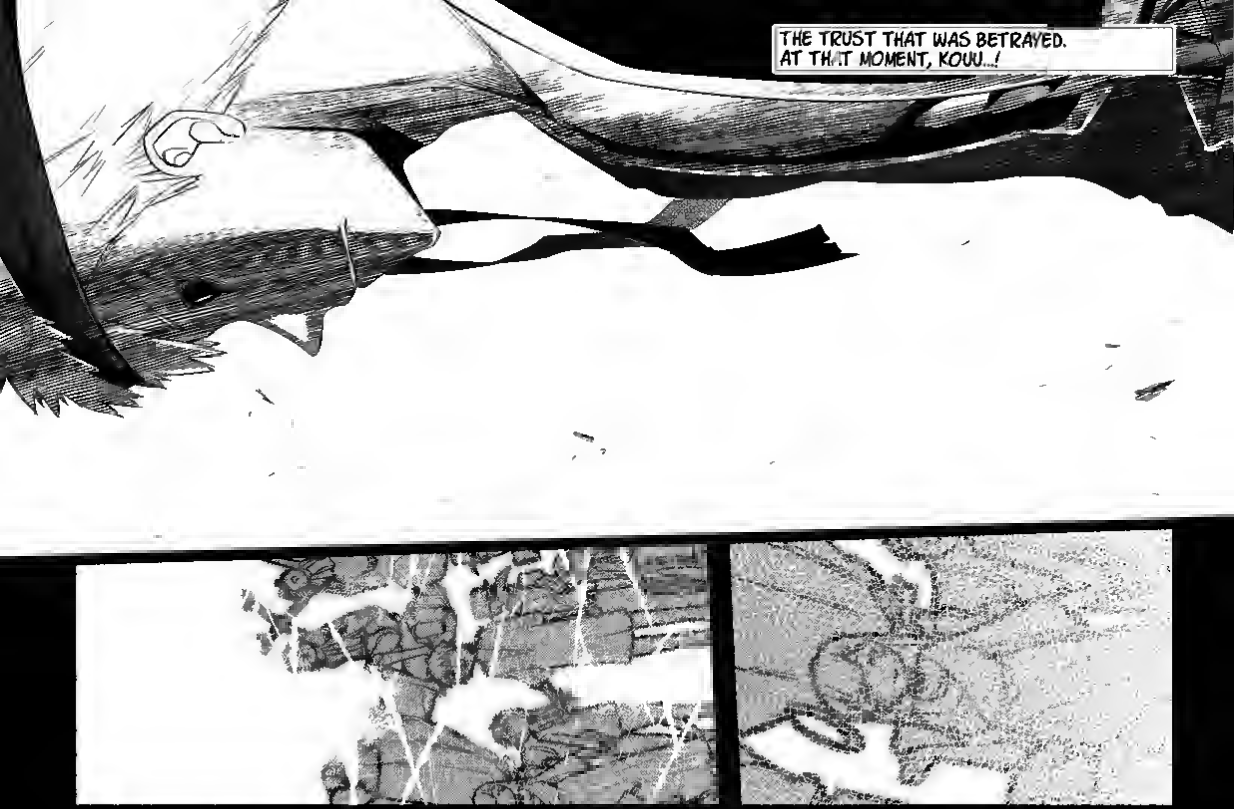
FOR THESE COMPANIONS THAT KILLED THEMSELVES OUT OF DESPERATION...
GATHERING THEM UP TOGETHER...
AND GIVING THEM AN IDIOTIC IDEAL SO THAT THEY CAN MOVE FORWARD... USING THIS TO GIVE THEM A SENSE OF UNITY THAT WILL ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL...
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF IT.
WHICH IS WHY IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR SOMEBODY LIKE SEIYA TO BE AT THE HEART OF IT ALL.

SOMEBODY LIKE ME WHO ISN'T CAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN HURT OTHER PEOPLE.
IT CAN NEVER BE...
AND THAT THE ONES DEVOURED BY THEIR TALENTS WILL NEVER TRULY GO EXTINCT.
I KNOW THAT THIS CAN'T SAVE THEM ALL.
KOUU-SAN— COME ON—
I WILL DYE MY HANDS IN BLOOD AGAIN WHEN THE NECESSARY TIME COMES
フッ...
AHH, *E RIGHT THERE...

WHICH IS WHY
I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU, SEIYA.
USE THAT INFINITELY
HUMANITARIAN GENTLENESS
AND UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE PEOPLE'S
PAIN TO GUIDE THEM.

A FEW DAYS LATER. STRONGHOLD OF THE FOREST OF THE GREATS.
ズズズ
OH, AM I THE LAST ONE TO ARRIVE?
WHAT IS IT? A MEETING WITH ONLY THE FOUNDING MEMBERS?
I'VE DECIDED UPON "WHERE TO START".
OHH— HAVE YOU FINALLY MADE A DECISION, SEIYA? YOU TEASE.
NOW THEN, WHERE DO WE START...

...SEIYA?
NOW THEN, IT'S TIME TO ANNOUNCE THE FIRST STEP THAT THE "FOREST OF THE GREATS" WILL TAKE TO ENSURE "WORLD PEACE"
I'M OKAY. NO NEED TO WORRY.
WERE YOU CRYING?
HEY HEY, WHAT IS WITH THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
AND WE ERADICATE THEM ALL.
WE FIND ALL OF THE SINNER RETURNERS...


THE TRUST THAT WAS BETRAYED.
AT THAT MOMENT, KOUU...!